

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-18 by re-writing same as indicated in the enclosed complete listing of all claims in the application commencing on a separate sheet and indicating the status of each claim as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

Patent Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Housing structure for mounting optical elements, in particular of a projection lens housing in a projection exposure system for manufacturing semiconductor elements, wherein attachment locations, ~~which have~~ with connecting parts, for connection to a supporting structure being provided on structural elements, wherein the connecting parts comprise supporting elements (12), which are provided with mounting flanges (13) for connection to the supporting structure (11), act on, and wherein the supporting elements are connected to the structural elements (9, 10) in such a way that supporting forces, in particular weight forces, are taken up essentially by pressure forces and shear forces.
2. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein thesaid connections between the structural elements (9, 10), thesaid supporting elements (12) and thesaid associated mounting flange (13) are effected essentially by means of adhesive surfaces (17a, 17b, 17e).
3. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein thesaid structural elements (9, 10) are made of materials to which the group comprising glass, ceramic and glass ceramic belongs.
4. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein thesaid supporting elements (12) comprise a metal supporting element (12).
5. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3,~~ Claim 1, wherein at least three supporting elements (12), distributed over the periphery, act on thesaid structural elements (9, 10).
6. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 5, wherein thesaid supporting elements (12) act on an at least approximately centrally arranged structure reinforcing plate (10).

7. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 6,~~Claim 1, wherein thesaid supporting elements (12) each have at least approximately an L-shape with a mounting flange (13).

8. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, wherein thesaid associated structural element (9, 10) lies on a horizontal leg of thesaid L-shape and in that the vertical leg of the L-shape lies against the external periphery of thesaid structural element (9, 10), thesaid mounting flange (13) adjoining the vertical leg of the L-shape in at least approximately the horizontal direction.

9. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 8, wherein adhesive surfaces are arranged between thesaid two legs of the L-shape of thesaid supporting element (12) and thesaid associated structural element (9, 10).

10. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, ~~8, or 9,~~ wherein thesaid structural element (9, 10) is, in the region of the horizontal leg of the L-shape, provided with a through-bore (20), through which a prestressed screw (18a) is passed and connected to the horizontal leg (15) of the L-shape.

11. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, ~~8 or 9,~~ wherein thesaid structural element (9, 10) is, in the region of thesaid vertical leg (16) of the L-shape, provided with a through-bore (21), through which a prestressed screw (18b) is passed and by means of which thesaid vertical leg (16) of the L-shape is connected to thesaid structural element (9, 10).

12. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 5,~~Claim 1, wherein thesaid supporting elements (12) each have a U-shape seen in cross section, from which thesaid mounting flange (13) branches off, thesaid associated structural element (9, 10) being received between thesaid two U-legs.

13. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 12, wherein thesaid structural element (9, 10) is provided with a through-bore (20), through which a screw (18e) is

passed, which is connected to ~~the~~the~~said~~ two U-legs (15, 22) of ~~the~~the~~said~~ supporting element (12) in such a way that the two U-legs (15, 22) exert a prestressing force on ~~the~~the~~said~~ structural element (9, 10).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Housing structure according to one of Claims 1 to 5,~~Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~the~~said~~ supporting element (12) ~~has~~comprises two clamping plates (15, 22) arranged at a distance from one another, between which ~~the~~the~~said~~ associated structural element (9, 10) is received, a peripheral plate (16) running parallel to the outer wall of ~~the~~the~~said~~ structural element (9, 10), and a mounting flange (13) connected to ~~the~~the~~said~~ two clamping plates (15, 22) and ~~the~~the~~said~~ peripheral plate (16).

15. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~the~~said~~ mounting flange (13) has at least approximately a T-shape, one T-leg forming ~~the~~the~~said~~ mounting flange, and connecting elements (18e), ~~by means of which the,~~ connecting said two clamping plates (15, 22) and ~~the~~the~~said~~ peripheral plate (16) ~~are connected to the~~being arranged on a leg (24) arranged at right angles to the said leg.

16. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~the~~said~~ connecting elements are designed as screws (18e) with spring elements (19).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Housing structure according to one of Claims 14 to 16,~~Claim 14, wherein adhesive surfaces (17a, 17b, 17e) are arranged between ~~the~~the~~said~~ clamping plates (15, 22), ~~the~~the~~said~~ peripheral plate (16) and ~~the~~the~~said~~ structural element (9, 10).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Housing structure according to one of Claims 14 to 17,~~Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~the~~said~~ two clamping plates (15, 22) are provided with screws (18d), which are screwed into ~~the~~the~~said~~ structural element (9, 10) in such a way that a prestress is exerted on ~~the~~the~~said~~ adhesive surfaces (17a, 17e).